

Medications Commonly used in Maternal Newborn

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use	Nursing considerations
Methotrexate	<p>“In cancer, methotrexate acts as an antifolate antimetabolite. It inhibits enzyme AICAR transformylase, leading to hindrance in adenosine and guanine metabolism, Adenosine accumulation; and due to anti-inflammatory action of adenosine, leads to repression of T-cell activation, down-regulation of B-cells, increasing activated CD-95 T cells sensitivity; and repression of methyltransferase activity, inhibition of the binding of beta-1 interleukin to its cell surface receptor (NIH, 2023).”</p>	<p>Monitor the patient’s breathing due to Methotrexate’s possible side effect of shortness of breath (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Mifepristone	<p>“Korlym is used to treat high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) in adults with Cushing's syndrome who also have type 2 diabetes mellitus or glucose intolerance (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Closely monitor current fall risk patient’s and be aware that the patient may become a fall risk while taking Mifepristone due to Mifepristone’s possible side effects of weakness, light-headed feeling, leg cramps, and feelings of weakness (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Rhogam	<p>“RhoGAM is used to prevent an immune response to Rh positive blood in people with an Rh negative blood type. This medicine may also be used in the treatment of immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).”</p>	<p>Ensure the combs blood test is done.</p>
Promethazine	<p>“Promethazine is used to treat allergy symptoms such as itching, runny nose, sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, hives, and itchy skin rashes. It also prevents motion sickness, and treats nausea and vomiting or pain after surgery. It is also used as a sedative or sleep aid (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Provide patient education pertaining to insomnia and other sleep problems to a patient experiencing sleep problems (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
	<p>“Doxylamine and pyridoxine is</p>	<p>Motivate the patient to do any</p>

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Pyridoxine and Doxylamine	a combination medicine used to treat nausea and vomiting during pregnancy (Drugs.com, 2023).”	physical therapy, daily activities, and personal hygiene necessary while taking Pyridoxine and Doxylamine because a side effect of this medication is drowsiness (Drugs.com, 2023). Due to the patient’s drowsiness, they may feel unmotivated to perform these activities.
Ondansetron	“Ondansetron blocks the actions of chemicals in the body that can trigger nausea and vomiting (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Ensure the correct dosage is being given to infants who are taking this medication postoperatively based on their weight. The recommended dosage for children under 40 kg is 0.1 mg/kg IV over 2 to 5 minutes immediately prior to/following anesthesia induction or postoperatively (Drugs.com, 2023).
Betamethasone	“ Betamethasone is a steroid that prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation... Betamethasone is used to treat many different inflammatory conditions such as allergic reactions, ulcerative colitis, arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis , inflammation of the joints or tendons, and problems caused by low adrenal gland hormone levels (Drugs.com, 2023).”	<p>Monitor the patient for mood swings and depression. Postpartum women are at risks for these symptoms without taking this medication, therefore including this medication in the regimen of patients may indicate these symptoms are side effects of the drug and not postpartum. This may be important information to report to the provider if they are considering a diagnosis of postpartum depression.</p> <p>Provide patient education pertaining to insomnia and other sleep problems to a patient experiencing sleep problems (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>

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Indomethacin	<p>“Indomethacin is used to treat moderate to severe osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gouty arthritis, or ankylosing spondylitis. Indomethacin is also used to treat shoulder pain caused by bursitis or tendinitis (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Monitor the patient for an increased risk of blood clotting due to taking this medication (Drugs.com, 2023).</p> <p>Monitor the patient for anemia due to this being a side effect of Indomethacin (Drugs.com, 2023). Anemia may also increase the patient’s fall risk.</p>
Magnesium Sulfate	<p>“Magnesium sulfate is used as a laxative to relieve occasional constipation (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Monitor the patient’s bowel movements and bowel sounds to determine the effectiveness of the medication (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Terbutaline Sulfate	<p>“Terbutaline is a bronchodilator that is used to treat or prevent bronchospasm (wheezing, chest tightness, trouble breathing) in people with lung conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, or emphysema (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Monitor the patient’s breathing due to Terbutaline Sulfate’s possible side effect of shortness of breath (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Glyburide	<p>“Glyburide is an oral diabetes medicine that helps control blood sugar levels...Glyburide is used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Monitor the patient for dysphasia as a possible side effect of Glyburide is difficulty swallowing (Drugs.com, 2023).</p> <p>Assess if the patient has a history of hypoglycemia as Glyburide may make this condition worse. This action should be accompanied by monitoring the patient's glucose levels.</p>
Insulin	<p>“Insulin is a hormone that works by lowering levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood. Insulin aspart is a fast-acting insulin that starts to work about 15 minutes after injection, peaks in about 1 hour, and keeps working for 2 to 4 hours (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	<p>Assess if the patient has a history of hypoglycemia as Insulin may make this condition worse. This action should be accompanied by monitoring the patient's glucose levels.</p>

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Hydralazine hydrochloride	“Hydralazine is a vasodilator that works by relaxing the muscles in your blood vessels to help them dilate (widen). This lowers blood pressure and allows blood to flow more easily through your veins and arteries. Hydralazine is used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient for chest pain as this is a side effect of taking Hydralazine (Drugs.com, 2023).
Labetalol	“Labetalol is a beta-blocker that is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure). Labetalol oral is sometimes given with other blood pressure medications. Labetalol injection is used when hypertension is severe (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient for hypotension as this is a common adverse effect of taking a beta-blocker to reduce hypertension.
Nifedipine	“Nifedipine is in a group of drugs called calcium channel blockers. It works by relaxing the muscles of your heart and blood vessels. Nifedipine is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) and angina (chest pain) (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient for hypotension as this is a common adverse effect of attempting to reduce hypertension. Monitor the patient for worsening angina (Drugs.com, 2023).
Calcium gluconate	“It is used to treat or prevent low calcium levels (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient’s serum calcium levels (Drugs.com, 2023). Monitor the patient for phlebitis at the IV insertion site.
Misoprostol	“Misoprostol reduces stomach acid and helps protect the	“Misoprostol administration to women who are pregnant can cause birth defects, abortion,

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	<p>stomach lining from damage that can be caused by taking aspirin or a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)...Misoprostol is a synthetic prostaglandin that works by "replacing" prostaglandins whose production is blocked by aspirin or NSAIDs. It is used to prevent stomach ulcers from developing during treatment with aspirin or an NSAID (Drugs.com, 2023)."</p>	<p>premature birth, or uterine rupture (Drugs.com, 2023)." Educate the patient of this possible side effect.</p>
Cervidil	<p>"Cervidil is used in a pregnant woman to relax the muscles of the cervix (opening of the uterus) in preparation for inducing labor at the end of a pregnancy (Drugs.com, 2023)."</p>	<p>Educate the patient on the possible side effects including pain inbetween contraction, vaginal bleeding, easily bruising, and more (Drugs.com)." Monitor the patient for vaginal bleeding as this is often worrisome for pregnant mothers (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Penicillin G	<p>"Penicillin G benzathine is an antibiotic that is used to treat many types of infections caused by bacteria, including strep or syphilis. Penicillin G benzathine is also used to prevent symptoms of rheumatic fever (Drugs.com, 2023)."</p>	<p>Monitor the patient's pain level using the numeric scale or faces scale. Detect where the patient;s pain is located if the patient reports pain. This is relevant because side effects of this medication include pain including severe stomach pain (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Methylergonovine	<p>"Methylergonovine is used just after a baby is born, to help deliver the placenta (also called the "afterbirth"). It is also used to help control bleeding and to improve muscle tone in the uterus after childbirth (Drugs.com, 2023)."</p>	<p>Monitor the patient's blood pressure due to increased blood pressure being a commonly resulting side effect of this medication (Drugs.com, 2023).</p>
Nalbuphine (Nubain)	<p>"Nalbuphine is an opioid pain medication that is used to treat</p>	<p>Monitor the patient's bowel movements as this medication</p>

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	moderate to severe pain. It is also used for treating pain just after surgery or childbirth (Drugs.com, 2023).”	may cause constipation (Drugs.com, 2023). Monitor the patient for a developing addiction to Nalbuphine as this medication is an opioid.
Naloxone--	Naloxone reverses opioid overdoses. “Naloxone is a opioid antagonist that works by attaching to opioid receptors and therefore reverses and blocks the effects of other opioids (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient for respiratory depression resulting from opioid use (Lemmen, Florian, van Velsen, etc., 2023).
Fentanyl	“Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid medicine used to treat moderate to severe pain , it is up to 100 times stronger than other opioids like morphine , heroin or oxycodone . Fentanyl is from the class of medicines called narcotic analgesics (drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient’s breathing as fentanyl may cause slow or cessation of breathing (Drugs.com, 2023).
Ibuprofen	<p>“Ibuprofen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). It works by reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.</p> <p>Ibuprofen is used to reduce fever and treat pain or inflammation caused by many conditions such as headache, toothache, back pain, arthritis, menstrual cramps, or minor injury (Drugs.com, 2023).”</p>	Do not give ibuprofen to children less than 6 months of age (Drugs.com, 2023).
acetaminophen	“Acetaminophen is used to treat mild to moderate pain, moderate	Closely monitor the patient’s ALT if the patient has a history

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	to severe pain in conjunction with opiates, or to reduce fever. Common conditions treated include headache, muscle aches, arthritis , backache, toothaches, sore throat, colds, flu, and fevers (Drugs.com, 2023).”	of liver problems due to acetaminophen working in the liver (Drugs.com, 2023).
oxycodone	“Oxycodone is used to treat moderate to severe pain (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Monitor the patient for a developing addiction to oxycodone as this medication is an opioid.
hydrocodone	“ Hydrocodone is an opioid pain medication (Drugs.com, 2023).	Monitor the patient for a developing addiction to hydrocodone as this medication is an opioid (Drugs.com, 2023).
ketorolac	“Ketorolac is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)... Ketorolac nasal (for the nose) is used short-term (5 days or less) to treat moderate to severe pain (Drugs.com, 2024).”	Monitor the patient’s blood pressure due to ketorolac’s possible side effect of high blood pressure (Drugs.com, 2024).
Hepatitis B vaccine	Prevention of Hepatitis B by introducing the virus into the body.	If the mother is a carrier of the Hepatitis B virus, the baby must be vaccinated within 12 hours of being born (KidsHealth, 2022).
Erythromycin eye ointment	“ Erythromycin belongs to a group of drugs called macrolide antibiotics. Macrolide antibiotics slow the growth of, or sometimes kill, sensitive bacteria by reducing the production of important proteins needed by the bacteria to survive (Drugs.com, 2023).” Erythromycin eye ointment treats bacterial infections. This is given to all newborn babies after delivery.	Apply Erythromycin eye ointment to the newborn’s eyes after delivery (MayoClinic, 2023).
Phytonadione	“Phytonadione is a man-made form of vitamin K, which	Monitor the patient for trouble breathing as this is a reported side effect of Phytonadione

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	occurs naturally in the body. Phytonadione is used to treat vitamin K deficiency , and to treat certain bleeding or blood-clotting problems caused by other medicines or medical conditions (Drugs.com, 2023).	(Drugs.com, 2023).
Prenatal vitamins	Prenatal vitamins support the health of the fetus during pregnancy.	Screen the patient for digestive system complications that may occur such as constipation may occur.
MMR vaccine	“The MMR vaccine is an injection given to help prevent measles, mumps, and rubella (Drugs.com, 2023).”	The MMR vaccine should not be given to patient’s who are or may be pregnant (Drugs.com, 2023).
Tetanus & reduced diphtheria toxoids/acellular pertussis vaccine	“Diphtheria and tetanus vaccine is a combination vaccine that is given to protect against infections caused by diphtheria and tetanus (lockjaw). The vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against these diseases. This vaccine is given to children 6 weeks of age and older, teenagers, and adults (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Do not give to children less than 6 weeks of age (Drugs.com).
Lidocaine mucosal gel	“Lidocaine topical (for use on the skin) is used to reduce pain or discomfort caused by skin irritations such as sunburn , insect bites , poison ivy , poison oak , poison sumac , and minor cuts , scratches, or burns. Lidocaine topical is also used to treat rectal discomfort caused by hemorrhoids (Drugs.com, 2023).”	Lidocaine mucosal gel may cause slow or irregular heartbeat (Drugs.com, 2023). Monitor the patient’s pulse.

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